

the two World Wars and the Korean hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to their country."

SEC. 2. That section 5 of such Act of September 16, 1919 (41 Stat. 285, title 36, U. S. C., 1940 edition, sec. 45), as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Membership requirements.

"SEC. 5. That no person shall be a member of this corporation unless he has served in the naval or military services of the United States at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to September 2, 1945; June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953; all dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of entry therein, served in the military or naval service of any of the governments associated with the United States during said wars or hostilities: *Provided, however,* That such person shall have an honorable discharge or separation from such service or continues to serve honorably after any of the aforesaid terminal dates."

Approved July 26, 1955.

Public Law 179

CHAPTER 387

AN ACT

July 26, 1955
[H. R. 4046]

To abolish the Old Kasaan National Monument, Alaska, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Old Kasaan National Monument, in Alaska, is hereby abolished, and the lands thereof shall hereafter be administered as a part of the Tongass National Forest.

Approved July 26, 1955.

Public Law 180

CHAPTER 388

AN ACT

July 26, 1955
[H. R. 5792]

To amend the Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1952, to extend the time for filing claims for mustering-out payments.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 503 of the Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1952 is amended by striking out "within two years after the date of enactment of this title" and inserting in lieu thereof "on or before July 16, 1956"

Approved July 26, 1955.

66 Stat. 690.
38 USC 1013.

Public Law 181

CHAPTER 389

AN ACT

July 26, 1955
[H. R. 6832]

To provide for payment of a reasonable attorney's fee by the insured in a suit brought by him or on his behalf during his lifetime for waiver of premiums on account of total disability.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 500 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, is hereby amended by substituting a semicolon for the period at the end of the first sentence thereof and adding the following: "except that in a suit brought

43 Stat. 1311.
38 USC 551.

by or on behalf of an insured during his lifetime, for waiver of premiums on account of total disability, the court, as part of its judgment or decree, shall determine and allow a reasonable fee to be paid by the insured to his attorney."

Approved July 26, 1955.

Public Law 182

CHAPTER 417

JOINT RESOLUTION

Providing for an objective, thorough, and nationwide analysis and reevaluation of the human and economic problems of mental illness, and for other purposes.

July 28, 1955
[H. J. Res. 256]

Mental Health
Study Act of 1955.

Whereas some seven hundred and fifty thousand mentally ill and retarded patients are now being hospitalized on any given day; and

Whereas 47 per centum of the hospital beds in the Nation are occupied by mental patients; and

Whereas the direct economic cost of mental illness to the taxpayers of the Nation, including pensions to veterans with psychiatric disabilities, is over \$1,000,000,000 a year and has been increasing at a rate of \$100,000,000 a year; and

Whereas the emotional impact and distress suffered by millions of our people anxiously and justifiably concerned about the welfare, treatment, and prospects of mentally afflicted relatives is incalculable and is one of the most urgent concerns of our people; and

Whereas the Governors of the several States, through national and regional Governors Conferences and through the publications of the Council of State Governments, have shown great initiative in their cooperative attempts to develop better methods of meeting the challenge of mental illness in their States; and

Whereas there is strong justification for believing that this constantly growing burden may well be due primarily to an outmoded reliance on simple custodial care in mental hospitals as the chief method of dealing with mental illness; and

Whereas there is strong reason to believe that lack of early intensive treatment facilities has created such a backlog of mentally deteriorated patients that it has become virtually impossible for the States to meet the need for mental hospital facilities; and

Whereas there is strong reason to believe that one of the greatest impediments to more rapid progress in the field of mental health is a definite shortage of professional personnel in all categories; and

Whereas there seems to be a discouraging lag between the discovery of new knowledge and skills in treating mental illness and their widespread application, as is evidenced by the fact that whereas only about one-third of newly admitted mental patients are discharged from State hospitals in the course of a year, in a few outstanding institutions the recovery rate is 75 per centum or more; and

Whereas experience with certain community out-patient clinics and rehabilitation centers would seem to indicate that many mental patients could be better treated on an out-patient basis at much lower cost than by a hospital; and

Whereas there is strong reason to believe that a substantial proportion of public mental hospital facilities are being utilized for the care of elderly persons who could be better cared for and receive better treatment in modified facilities at lower cost; and

Whereas there is reason to believe that many emotionally disturbed children are being placed in mental hospitals, which have no proper facilities to administer to their needs; and